

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A probe comprising a nucleic acid carrying a labeling substance that releases energy and an intercalator or an energy absorbing substance which specifically binds to a double-stranded nucleic acid capable of absorbing the energy released from the labeling substance, wherein the intercalator or the energy-absorbing substance specifically binds the double-stranded nucleic acid by the hybridization of the probe with a target nucleic acid wherein energy transfer from the labeling substance to the intercalator or the energy-absorbing substance is intercepted.

Claim 2 (original): The probe according to claim 1, wherein the energy is photo energy.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The probe according to claim 1, wherein the labeling substance is selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent substance, a delayed fluorescent substance, and a chemiluminescent substance.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (previously presented): The probe according to claim 1, wherein the intercalator is selected from the group consisting of acridine, anthracene, pyrene, and derivatives thereof.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The probe according to claim 1, wherein the labeling substance is fluorescein, and the energy-absorbing substance is selected from the group consisting of pyrene, coumarin, and acridine.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A solid phase carrier for detecting a nucleic acid, on which the probe of claim 1 is immobilized.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A method for detecting a nucleic acid comprising the steps of contacting the probe of claim 1 with a nucleic acid sample and then measuring energy released from the labeling substance.

Claim 9 (original): The method according to claim 8, wherein the presence of the energy released from the labeling substance indicates the hybridization of the probe with the target nucleic acid.